

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /071 W

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R 180842Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8625

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 6013

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR AU MY

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER REASSURES MALAYSIA

REF: A) KUALA LUMPUR 0402, 2/1/74

B) KUALA LUMPUR 5908

1. SUMMARY: GOA DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD HAS TOLD PRESS HERE THAT GOA WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP TWO MIRAGE SQUADRONS AT BUTTERWORTH AFB, AND WILL HONOR FULL-TERMS OF FPDA. GOA STATEMENT, WHILE NOT UNEXPECTED, UNDOUBTEDLY IS REASSURING TO GOM IN WAKE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF BRITISH DEFENSE CUTBACKS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF TWO-DAY VISIT TO MALAYSIA AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE THAT GOA WILL NOT WITHDRAW TWO RAAF MIRAGE SQUADRONS BASED AT BUTTERWORTH AIR BASE IN NORTHERN MALAYSIA "AS LONG AS THEY REMAIN RELEVANT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE NEEDS OF MALAYSIA AND AUSTRALIA AND TO THE REALITIES OF

THE REGION." HE ADDED THAT GOA WOULD HONOR FULL TERMS OF FIVE POWER DEFENSE AGREEMENT (FPDA) "UNTIL A MORE POSITIVE AND ENDURING SETTLEMENT IS REACHED IN ESTABLISHING PEACE, FREEDOM, AND NEUTRALITY IN THIS REGION."

3. BARNARD ALSO VOICED CONTINUING GOA SUPPORT FOR OTHER GOA-GOM DEFENSE COOPERATION PROJECTS SUCH AS ARMED FORCES MANUFACTURING WORKSHOP AND DEFENSE RESEARCH CENTER IN MALAYSIA, TRAINING OF RMAF PERSONNEL IN AUSTRALIA, AND SAID HE EXPECTED FUTURE EMPHASIS IN SUCH COOPERATION WOULD BE ON "TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY NEEDED BY MALAYSIA AS IT DEVELOPS ITS ARMED FORCES."

4. COMMENT: BARNARD STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR FPDA IS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THAT OF PM WHITLAM DURING HIS VISIT TO MALAYSIA IN JANUARY 1974 (REF A). WHILE MALAYSIANS HAVE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COMMITMENTS TO FPDA AND BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION PROGRAMS, EVEN WITHOUT TRADITIONAL BRITISH LEADERSHIP, BARNARD'S REASSURANCES REGARDING MIRAGE SQUADRONS DOVETAILS WITH GOM SHORT-TERM RELIANCE ON FPDA WHILE PURSUING LONGER-RANGE SECURITY INTERESTS WITH ITS ASEAN NEIGHBORS (REF B). EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE MORE DETAILS CONCERNING SUBSTANCE OF BARNARD TALKS WITH GOM OFFICIALS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.  
UNDERHILL

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## Message Attributes

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